



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fact Sheet

MAYOR SANDERS TURNS ON HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN BALBOA PARK AND INVITES SAN DIEGANS TO VISIT BALBOA PARK DECEMBER NIGHTS

NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT LED LIGHTS WILL DECORATE THE PARK DURING THE HOLIDAY EVENT AND THROUGHOUT ALL OF DECEMBER

Mayor Jerry Sanders tonight flipped the switch to turn on the SDG&E Holiday Light Canopy which will cover the center of The Plaza de Panama during Balboa Park December Nights and throughout the month of December.

Returning as a sponsor to support Balboa Park December Nights for the fifth year, the opportunity to be part of the December Nights celebration allows SDG&E to support the much beloved community tradition while introducing a new, environmentally sensitive, technology to San Diegans.

The **SDG&E Holiday Light Canopy** covers the center of The Prado's Plaza and welcome visitors with dazzling holiday cheer. Thousands of sparkling energy-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) lights are included in the canopy and the accompanying tree of lights. As a special gift to the citizens of San Diego, SDG&E will leave the lights on in Balboa Park throughout the month of December.



Visitors to December Nights will have an opportunity to exchange up to three incandescent holiday light strings for three free multi-colored LED light strings and exchange up to five (5) incandescent light bulbs for CFLs (while supplies last). New this year, SDG&E will also distribute energy-savings kits which include a low-flow showerhead and three aerators to 5,000 household representatives.

National Sustainable Communities Award

Mayor Jerry Sanders also recognized SDG&E for the Sustainable Communities Program's Leadership Award the utility received in November from the U.S. Green Building Council.

This prestigious national award honors outstanding individuals and organizations that signify vision, leadership and commitment to the evolution of green building design and construction.



SDG&E has taken an active role in contributing to the sustainability of Balboa Park through its support of Balboa Park December Nights and an array of programs that demonstrate the utility's commitment to the environment and creating sustainability for the community. SDG&E's innovative program integrates utility-owned clean energy generation systems into green building by placing solar panels on their rooftops which has helped the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center to be one of the first museums to pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification.

Celebrate the Season

San Diego's favorite kick-off to the holiday season, Balboa Park December Nights will take place for the 31st consecutive year on Friday, December 5, 5:00-10:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 6, Noon-10:00 p.m.



The largest free community festival in San Diego, December Nights is expected to attract more than 300,000 visitors and is co-produced by the City of San Diego and the San Diego Business Improvement District (BID) Council. Venue hosts include the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, House of Hospitality, and City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department.

The beloved San Diego event features theatrical and musical entertainment, sparking lights, and food, food and more food throughout the Park. "My Ancestors' Village," sponsored by Barona, shares the rich culture of San Diego's Native American community with December Nights visitors.

In the spirit of the holidays, participating Balboa Park museums open their doors free of charge from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. both evenings.

Long-time Favorites Remain

In addition to the new activities that are introduced each year to the event, traditional entertainment, wonderful food and holiday cheer all remain part of this classic San Diego celebration.

Visitors to the event will enjoy the long-standing traditions of *Christmas on the Prado* including:

- ❖ Food from around the globe at the International Christmas Festival at the House of Pacific Relations Cottages
- ❖ The charming Santa Lucia Procession at the San Diego Museum of Man
- ❖ Unique gift shopping at the museum stores and with the artisans of Spanish Village
- ❖ Musical and dance presentations from the San Diego Junior Theatre, San Diego Civic Youth Ballet
- ❖ Del Cerro Baptist's Christmas Story Tree and more—fill the heart of Balboa Park.



Getting to December Nights

Parking is limited in Balboa Park. Guests are encouraged to use the free event shuttles and public transportation.



Free Event Shuttles

Visitors to December Nights can help keep Balboa Park “green” by taking free event shuttles from the County Administration Building North Lot and City College lots. Parking is free and the event shuttle drops visitors off at Park Boulevard and President’s Way. Attendees can also park at PETCO Park and the surrounding lots. Parking is \$3.00 per vehicle with more than 2,000 parking spaces in this area. The free event shuttle drops visitors off at Sixth and Laurel streets.

Public Transportation

For an easy ride, leave your car at home and take public transportation to Balboa Park December Nights. To create your personal trip plan visit, www.sdmts.com or call 511 to speak with one of the Transit Information Operators.

For complete details regarding the event please visit www.visitdecemhernights.org

